

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02), ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, issued the following statement on today's jobs report from the Department of Labor indicating that 533,000 jobs were lost in November:**

"Today's disappointing jobs report demonstrates the severity of our current economic situation. American families and small businesses are clearly hurting, and the situation will almost certainly get worse before it gets better.

"As Congress and President-elect Obama develop a new plan to help get our economy back on firm footing, we must not compound the errors that led us into the current crisis. A major cause of this recession was too much debt and not enough savings – on the part of the federal government, financial institutions, and consumers. Thus, it would be a mistake for Congress to rely primarily on stimulating consumer spending or a massive increase in the federal government deficit as a way to jumpstart the economy.

"In particular, Congress should not increase the deficit in order to bail out mismanaged corporations or fiscally irresponsible state governments at taxpayer expense. Further, while I agree that we should make long-term investments in infrastructure, education, and technology to keep America competitive, we must recognize that investment must go beyond just throwing money at a problem, and that substantial injections of government spending on such projects have not proven to be an effective stimulus when tried before.

"I believe it is important for Congress to focus on bold, pro-growth reforms that bolster investment and job creation in the near and long term. For starters, Congress should boost household income by reducing the tax burden on individuals and families. Tax relief should be structured in a manner that is equitable and does not add to the complexity of the tax code by carving out new narrowly-targeted deductions and credits. Because history has shown that consumers and small businesses are less inclined to spend or invest when they expect their taxes to go up again soon, this tax relief should be made permanent rather than temporary.

"In addition, we need to dramatically reduce taxes that inhibit job creation so that American companies will remain competitive in a global economy and have an incentive to hire more workers here in the United States. And we need to pass the pending fair trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea to level the playing field and create new export

opportunities for U.S. workers and small businesses.

“Combined with the ongoing efforts to strengthen our financial markets, and the necessary self-corrections our economy is gradually making to stabilize, enacting pro-growth legislation will help soften our current economic woes and lay the foundation for a vibrant economic recovery in the future.”